

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 (ISO) W

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R 231630Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6557

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, GB, RO, CH

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF PRESIDENT BONGO

1. PRESIDENT BONGO LEFT LIBREVILLE EARLY JUNE 23 FOR THREE-WEEK TRIP THAT WILL INCLUDE THREE STATE VISITS AND TWO TECHNICAL STOPS. BONGO SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BUCHAREST 1100 JUNE 23 FOR FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT. ON JUNE 28, PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WILL ARRIVE PEKING FOR WHAT WILL REPORTEDLY BE 48-HOUR TECHNICAL STOP, AFTER WHICH PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO PYONGYANG FOR THREE-DAY STATE VISIT. ON JULY 3, PRESIDENTIAL PARTY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO FOR ANOTHER 48-HOUR TECHNICAL STOP DURING WHICH TIME BONGO REPORTEDLY WILL LUNCH WITH EMPEROR. FINAL STATE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEOUL JULY 5-7, AND PRESIDENT BONGO SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PARIS JULY 8. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS INDICATIONS, IT NOW APPEARS PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WILL STAY IN PARIS UNTIL AT LEAST JULY 11 ALTHOUGH THIS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON PRESIDENT'S MOOD. WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT WILL ATTEND SAO TOME INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES JULY 12 STILL PROBLEMATICAL
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THOUGH LOCAL BETTING IS THAT HE WILL ATTEND.

2. PRESIDENT'S CURRENT TRIP FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF PRESIDENT'S POLITICS OF OPENNESS. PRESIDENT UNDOUBTEDLY LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM COUNTRIES HE WILL BE VISITING AND MOST LIKELY HOPES THAT TWO KOREAS WILL TRY TO OUTBID EACH OTHER. ASIAN PORTION OF TRIP OBVIOUSLY WELL BALANCED. ACCORDING TO SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM, BONGO TOLD KIM THAT CHINESE WANTED TO TURN HIS TECHNICAL STOP INTO FULL STATE VISIT (WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT'S SECOND) INCLUDING VISITS WITH MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI, PROVIDED THAT BONGO CANCELED SEOUL VISIT. BONGO TOLD KIM THAT HE INFORMED CHINESE THAT THIS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE HE COULD NOT CANCEL STATE VISIT TO FRIENDLY COUNTRY AT LAST MINUTE.
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